

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Jeffrey S. Swayze et al. : Paper No:  
Serial No. : Group Art Unit:  
Filed: : Examiner:  
For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING MULTISTROKE FIRING  
INCORPORATING A TRACTION-BIASED RATCHETING MECHANISM

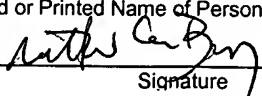
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants herewith submit certain patent references which the Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the above-identified application. The references are provided below, and are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Pursuant to the waiver published in the Pre-OG Notice, dated July 11, 2003, no copies are provided herewith of U.S. patents cited. Copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature are provided herewith. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search has been made or that no better art than the listed is available. It is respectfully requested that the information be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the present application.

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number: <u>EV 311436483 US</u>
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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited in the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<u>Matthew G. Burgan</u> Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing
<u></u> Signature

Respectfully submitted,  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT***(use as many sheets as necessary)***Complete if Known**

Application No.

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Art Unit

Examiner Name

SWAYZE, Jeffrey S. et al.

Sheet

1

of

2

Attorney Docket No.

END5131-0517373

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner initials	Cite No.	DOCUMENT NUMBER		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
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EXAMINER SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSIDERED \_\_\_\_\_

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT***(use as many sheets as necessary)***Complete if Known**

<b>Application No.</b> <b>Filing Date</b> <b>First Named Inventor</b> <b>Art Unit</b> <b>Examiner Name</b>					
	SWAYZE, Jeffrey S. et al.				
<b>Sheet</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Attorney Docket No.</b>	END5131-0517373

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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		EP 0 070 230 A1	07-06-1982	Tractel S.A.		Abstract
		WO 99/15086	04-01-1999	U.S. Surgical Corp.		

**OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>6</sup>

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